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Something slightly different from what the direct, immediate, literal interpretation of the words would be. It is quite another thing to use a method of interpretation by which you could make anything mean anything. It is danger that only modernists but some conservatives have in their interpretation particularly of prophecy. They use methods which simply leave us getting nothing specific from the passages, and that is a tremendous danger. That is not what we are doing here. We are noting the rhetorical device that is used and it is important to do this because we find other instances that we cannot interpret properly except as we find comparisons of the methods of explanation and interpretation used in the Scripture. So here he seems to be talking to the altar. It would hardly be proper for this man to come up and talk to the king. He had never met the king; he had no particular right to speak to him. There are forms you are supposed to go through before addressing a man of that rank, but he comes up and talks to the altar. He tells the altar that God has a message for the altar, and really the message is for the king. It is a device to get the word across. So he says, "Altar, thus saith the Lord." He doesn't say, "Altar, I see that this is wrong that is being done and I would like to give some advice." He doesn't say that. He says that here is a message from God. What is the message at the altar. "Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name, and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burned upon thee." Now why did he have to say there is ~~going~~ going to be a son of the house of David named Josiah? The son of house of David named Josiah came three hundred years after this time. Why should he mention now that there was to be a son of that particular name? Why doesn't he say that, behold, there is a son of the house of David named Rehoboam and Rehoboam is going to offer on thee the priests of the high places that burn incense? Why doesn't he say that? Because Rehoboam couldn't do such a thing if he wanted to. Rehoboam had a kingdom half